

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

OFA-01 DLOS-04 IO-10 EB-07 CG-00 DOTE-00 AGR-05 /084 W

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R 110917Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3211

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONLULU, HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12775

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJ: NORTH KOREANS RETURN JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL

REF: TOKYO 12462; TOKYO 12280; TOKYO 122205

SUMMARY: JAPANESE WILL WAIT UNTIL NORTH KOREANS RETURN
SHOSEI MARU AND CREW BEFORE DECIDING FURTHER ACTION.
PRIVATE FISHERIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPANESE AND NORTH
KOREANS IS UNLIKELY. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF CONFIRMS PRESS REPORTS THAT NORTH KOREANS WILL
RETURN SEPTEMBER 11 FISHING VESSEL SHOSEI MARU, CREW, AND
REMAINS OF TWO CREWMEN KILLED WHEN CRAFT SEIZED SEPTEMBER 2.
TWO CREWMEN WOUNDED DURING INCIDENT WILL BE RETURNED WHEN
THEY HAVE RECOVERED. ASKED WHAT ACTION AGAINST DPRK JAPAN
CONTEMPLATING, NORTHEAST ASIA DIVDIR ENDO RESPONDED THAT
TESTIMONY OF CAPTAIN WILL BE IMPORTANT DETERMINANT.
LOCATION OF VESSEL AT TIME OF INCIDENT STILL UNCLEAR.
UPON RECEIPT OF FULL INVESTIGATION REPORT FROM GOJ MARITIME
AUTHORITIES, FONOFF WILL DECIDE FURTHER MEASURES. (PRESS
REPORTS DPRK HAS OFFERED EQUIVALENT OF \$20,000 COMPENSATION
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FOR EACH OF DECEASED.)

2. EMBOFF ASKED ENDO TO COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS SEPTEMBER 10 THAT AGRICULTURE MINISTER ABE HAD ADVOCATED PRIVATE FISHERIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPANESE AND NORTH KOREANS. ENDO SAID HE HAD CHECKED WITH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WHICH REPORTED THAT ABE HAD STRESSED NEED TO TAKE MEASURES TO AVOID FUTURE FATAL INCIDENTS. ABE ADDED THAT JAPANESE FISHING AUTHORITIES HAD CONCLUDED PRIVATE AGREEMENTS WITH SOVIET AND PRC COUNTERPARTS WELL BEFORE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED AND SUGGESTED THAT SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH NORTH KOREANS MIGHT BE EFFECTIVE MEASURE TO PREVENT SUCH INCIDENTS.

3. OFFICIALLY, ENDO ADDED, FONOFF NOT INVOLVED AT THIS STAGE IN ABE PROPOSAL WHICH IS MATTER FOR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS TO WORK OUT. SHOULD PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS DEVELOP COMMON POSITION AND CLEAR IT THROUGH FISHERIES AGENCY AND MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FONOFF WOULD THEN OFFER ITS VIEWS. PRIVATELY, ENDO BELIEVES FISHERIES INTERESTS WILL FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO BROKER OUT DIFFERENCES AND DEVELOP COMMON POSITION NEEDED TO FORM FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION. IMPORTANT FISHING INTERESTS FROM WESTERN COAST OF JAPAN OPERATE IN WATERS OFF COAST OF ROK AS WELL DPRK, AND ENDO HAS MADE CLEAR TO THEM THAT PRIVATE AGREEMENT WITH PYONGYANG WILL JEOPARDIZE OPERATIONS OFF ROK. HE HAS COUNSELLED CAUTION AND IMPLIED TO US THAT HE EXPECTS NO PROGRESS.
HODGSON

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